

7th Grade Ancient Civilizations Course Overview and Syllabus

Washington Latin PCS
2014-2015 Academic Year

Ms. Erin Coppola-Klein
ecoppola-klein@latinpcs.org

Welcome to Washington Latin's 7th grade ancient civilizations course! Throughout the year, we will be exploring two questions in depth. First, what does it mean to be human? What responsibilities do we have to ourselves and other human beings? Second, are we civilized? What does it mean to be a member of a civilization or society?

To do this, we will work to analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources and will participate in simulations that will introduce you to a variety of the social sciences, including economics, political science, anthropology, sociology, and linguistics. We will be studying this history using an integrated approach, so be prepared to use content and skills from your other classes. Special focus will be placed on thinking critically, articulating viewpoints supported with evidence, and appreciating value systems different from our own.

Curriculum and Texts:

It would be impossible to cover all ancient civilizations in a single course, so we have selected a few western civilizations that most closely align with our classical mission. Here are the topics we will cover.

- Unit 1: Prehistory
- Unit 2: Mesopotamia
- Unit 3: Egypt
- *winter break*
- Unit 4: Greece
- Unit 5: Rome

There is no assigned textbook for this course. As a result, you will receive readings from a variety of sources. All hard copy readings will be posted digitally and on-line readings will have a link on the class wiki. It is important that you keep all these readings with your notes in your red binder.

Grading:

Each marking period, your grade will be calculated using the following weights:

15% - Class Participation
20% - Homework
25% - Open Note Pop Quizzes
40% - Tests/Projects/Papers

Policies and Expectations:

Binder

You must have a **red three-ringed binder** (at least 1 inch) with filler paper that you bring to every history class. This will allow you to keep homework, notes, and readings organized by topic. If you come to class unprepared, you will lose participation points for the day and will need to take notes on a piece of loose leaf paper, **NOT** in a binder or notebook for another subject.

Absences

We are covering over a million years of human history this year. If you are absent, assume you missed something important. It is your responsibility to come see me to review missed material not just to collect handouts or turn in your homework. It is a good idea to plan on staying for tutorial within two days of your absence to ensure that you do not fall behind. I will not seek you out to do make-up work. Tests and quizzes missed due to excused absence must be taken within one week of the original exam date in order to receive credit.

Homework

At Washington Latin PCS, the school-wide homework policy is intended to encourage students to approach homework with the attitude that it is an opportunity for additional learning. As such, homework used to prepare for class cannot be accepted for credit after its due date. However, most of the homework in this class is used as an opportunity to practice applying the information and skills learned in class, so it will be accepted within 5 days of the due date with a 10% late penalty for each day it is late. Whether an assignment is reparation homework or practice homework will be clearly identified when it is assigned, and will be posted on the wiki.

Homework is graded in two ways. Homework that is collected is worth 10 points. Homework that is checked for completion is worth 5 points. Whether homework will be collected will typically not be announced. Homework that is illegible, crumpled or torn, or shows lack of understanding will lose points.

Time Management

We all get overwhelmed from time to time! If you have a question, don't understand, or think there is a possibility you might not get your work done, please contact me right away. You can email me or sign up for tutorial. I will be much more able to help you if you let me know early. **I do not grant extensions on the day an assignment is due.**

If you have any questions about the course or expectations, ask! I respond to email within 24 hours during the week. I will work with every student and family to ensure everyone understands these regulations and are able to abide by them. I'm looking forward to a great year in 7th grade ancient history!

Please sign and return this portion to Ms. Coppola-Klein.

My child and I have read and discussed the syllabus. We understand the course overview, what supplies we are expected to have, the grading breakdown, and class policies. We agree to abide by and support these policies and expectations.

Print Student Name

Date

Student Signature

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Questions or comments: